United Nations S/2001/833

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 August 2001

Original: English

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Security Council the sixth quarterly report of the Executive Chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) which is submitted in accordance with paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 1284 (1999) of 17 December 1999 (see annex).

01-52497 (E) 310801

Annex

Sixth quarterly report of the Executive Chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission under paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 1284 (1999)

Introduction

1. The present report, which is the sixth[a] submitted in accordance with paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 1284 (1999), covers the activities of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) during the period from 1 June to 31 August 2001.

2. UNMOVIC has still not been able to carry out the mission in Iraq entrusted to it by the Security Council to address unresolved disarmament issues, in particular key remaining disarmament tasks, in the course of carrying out a reinforced system of ongoing monitoring and verification. The position so far of Iraq, expressed notably to the Secretary-General, is that it has fulfilled all requirements under section C of resolution 687 (1991) and that there is no ground for inspection.

3. While awaiting access to perform its mission in Iraq, UNMOVIC is working on several different fronts, described in this report. It is improving its readiness for inspections both by identifying, analysing and assessing unresolved disarmament issues which have to be addressed, and by preparing itself in the spheres of logistics, training, data collection and retrieval, as well as archive consolidation. Further, as the information provided by the database and archive are on the whole limited to the situation before December 1998, UNMOVIC is seeking supplementary information for the time thereafter through open sources, overhead imagery and Government assistance. In the period covered by this report, UNMOVIC has also completed the review and updating of the lists of dual-use items to which the export/import monitoring mechanism set out in resolution 1051 (1996) applies.

Unresolved disarmament issues and key remaining disarmament tasks

4. The Commission's staff have continued as a priority task to identify unresolved disarmament issues. Although reservation will have to be made for the possible impact of still missing data from the period during which no international inspectors were present in Iraq, progress has been made and valuable advice has been given by the College of Commissioners. It is clear that many disarmament issues have been resolved in the years since the adoption of resolution 687 (1991) and that others should be susceptible to solution with the cooperation of Iraq or, possibly, with assistance from third parties. It is also clear that, while some issues may have lost importance because of the passage of time, key disarmament tasks remain. The list of unresolved issues is needed as UNMOVIC is directed to address them and the issues must thus be kept in mind in the planning of future inspections and monitoring. The list of items must also serve as a basis for the identification of the key remaining disarmament tasks, which are to be included in the work programme and which UNMOVIC is to prepare after having started its work in Iraq. While these lists cannot be drawn up until after essential rebaselining has taken place, UNMOVIC has already engaged itself and the College of Commissioners in an effort to clarify what is meant by "key remaining disarmament tasks".

Non-inspection-related sources of information

5. In the absence of on-site inspection and monitoring in Iraq, UNMOVIC is seeking to make increased use of other sources of information regarding developments that may be relevant to its mandate. In the first place it is looking for more information based on overhead imagery. In this sphere it is diversifying its sources, mainly by obtaining imagery from a commercial provider. The Commission has begun to analyse the material which is becoming available with a view to keeping itself updated on developments on

[a] The Commission's five previous quarterly reports were issued as documents S/2000/516, S/2000/835, S/2000/1134, S/2001/177 and S/2001/515.

the ground in Iraq at sites which may have relevance to its disarmament and monitoring tasks. The Commission is further arranging the screening of a great many open sources for information relevant to its mandate. Here, too, the diversification of sources is important. Lastly, the Commission seeks to obtain information from Governments. The three non-inspection-related sources mentioned will help the Commission to obtain some understanding of, and knowledge about, developments on the ground and will be of significant help in the planning of inspection and monitoring, although they cannot serve as substitutes for the on-site inspection and monitoring envisaged by relevant Security Council resolutions.

Training

6. The fourth month-long basic training course of UNMOVIC was held in Canada and ended on 28 June 2001. There were 59 participants from 24 countries. Currently there are 178 persons on the UNMOVIC roster who should be available for work in Iraq in addition to those already serving with UNMOVIC. Further training courses are planned, mainly of a specialized nature, for roster personnel and for prospective Chief Inspectors from the headquarters staff. UNMOVIC thus expects to have available an adequate cadre of highly qualified and trained personnel with a broad geographical background. These experts will be asked to take part in specialized courses which will further improve their expertise and readiness for inspection and monitoring work in Iraq. They are also kept up to date by a periodic newsletter with general information.

Export/import

7. The Commission's staff has completed the revision and updating of the lists of dual-use items and materials to which the export/import monitoring mechanism, approved by the Security Council in resolution 1051 (1996), applies. The Executive Chairman forwarded the revised lists to the Security Council on 1 June 2001 (S/2001/560). The new lists entered into force on 13 July 2001, following a notification to all States (UNMOVIC letter of 29 June 2001).

8. Notifications, required under the terms of resolution 1051 (1996), continue to be received from Governments of suppliers. Iraq has not done so since the end of 1998; nor has it provided the declarations required of it under the terms of resolution 715 (1991).

Briefings and consultations by the Executive Chairman

9. UNMOVIC being a subsidiary body of the Security Council, the Executive Chairman has continued the practice of providing monthly briefings to the respective Presidents of the Security Council. This is in addition to the quarterly reports which he has submitted to the Security Council. He has also kept the Secretary-General informed of the activities of UNMOVIC. Member States continue to express both active interest and support for the preparatory work of UNMOVIC and for the implementation of its mandate.

Database and archive

10. Much work has been devoted during the period under review to make the database and the archive into better and more readily available sources for information about, and analysis of, Iraq's programmes of weapons of mass destruction, for what has become known and for what still needs to become known and done. The database is being made more comprehensive by the inclusion of material which had until now remained outside. It is also being equipped to permit cross-disciplinary analyses which were previously unavailable. Staff are being trained to use it. The archives of the Special Commission were spread over the various sections and disciplines. The material consists of well over 1 million documents, including inspection reports and Iraqi declarations. They are being consolidated into one system with a uniform classification. All aerial images, some 13,000 Special Commission photographs, have now been catalogued and entered into the archive.

Other activities

11. The work that has been devoted to drafting an UNMOVIC Handbook is part of the effort to increase the readiness for inspection and monitoring. The guidance and directives which the Security Council has given over the years should be readily available to inspectors and other staff of the Commission. While

the larger part of the draft Handbook is ready, and has been discussed by the College of Commissioners, work continues in particular on the discipline-specific chapters. UNMOVIC staff are also in the process of elaborating streamlined declaration forms to be submitted by Iraq in electronic form. It is hoped that this would considerably facilitate the work involved for Iraq in putting together declarations to UNMOVIC.

12. Careful preparation and planning for the set-up of the reinforced system of ongoing monitoring and verification is being conducted by UNMOVIC staff. This includes analyses and research into sites previously subject to ongoing monitoring and verification, as well as investigating possibilities of improved monitoring equipment, preparations for rebaselining and assessing how the reinforced system should be calibrated to address various unresolved disarmament issues. The Commission's staff have also been evaluating camera systems, sensors and other analytical equipment for potential deployment in Iraq.

College of Commissioners

13. The sixth plenary session of the College of Commissioners was held in New York on 28 and 29 August 2001. As on previous occasions, in addition to the members of the College, observers from the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons attended. The Commissioners heard an oral report from the Executive Chairman on the activities of UNMOVIC since the last session of the College in May 2001. The Chairman also briefed members of the College on other developments concerning Iraq relevant to the implementation of the mandate of UNMOVIC.

14. The College of Commissioners discussed a paper prepared by UNMOVIC staff on the meaning of certain terms, notably the term "key remaining disarmament tasks" in resolution 1284 (1999). In addition, the Commissioners received a briefing on the Commission's plans for the implementation of a reinforced system of ongoing monitoring and verification in Iraq. The Commission's staff also briefed the College on the current use of overhead imagery by UNMOVIC.

15. The College welcomed the preparation of the paper and held a wide-ranging discussion. Commissioners made comments particularly on their understanding of the "cooperation" required of Iraq, on "unresolved disarmament issues" and on the "key remaining disarmament tasks" which Iraq has to complete. The Secretariat took note of the various opinions expressed.

16. In accordance with paragraph 5 of resolution 1284 (1999), the Commissioners were consulted on the contents of the present report.

17. The College decided to hold its next session in New York on 26 and 27 November 2001.

Conclusions

18. Much progress has been achieved in the disarmament area in Iraq since 1991 and some remaining issues may prove on examination to be of limited significance. Nevertheless, as noted by the Security Council in resolution 1284 (1999), there remain unresolved disarmament issues, including issues of key importance. Moreover, the absence of inspectors, and the lack of continuity of knowledge since 1998, raises the question whether additional issues have arisen that must also be resolved. UNMOVIC has reached a level of preparedness which would allow it to implement the mandate given to it in an independent, effective and non-provocative manner. The cooperation of Iraq with UNMOVIC, as demanded by the Security Council, would create the opportunity for it to build confidence, which no unilateral statements can provide, that it is fully complying with all relevant resolutions of the Security Council and thus opening the prospect of the lifting of sanctions.